DC #29

DIRECT CURRENTS

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Cover of the Month
FIRESTORM #100

SUPERMAN & BATMAN TOGETHER IN *WORLD'S FINEST*

Batman and Superman: they are the two greatest—and most enduring—comic book heroes. Now, DC Comics reunites these legendary characters in the all-new **WORLD'S FINEST** miniseries.

The forging of an alliance between Luthor and The Joker to gain control of an orphanage located between Gotham City and Metropolis forces two unusual orphans, Superman and Batman, into an uneasy alliance of their own. Their views on crimefighting and morality may be in opposition, but the world's finest heroes agree that these villains must be stopped.

WORLD'S FINEST is a three-book Prestige Format miniseries, written by Dave Gibbons, pencilled by Steve Rude, inked by Karl Kesel, and colored by Steve Oliff. The painted covers are by Rude.

Batman and Superman: Individually, they're incredible. Together, they are the WORLD'S FINEST.

THE GREATEST TEAM-UP STORIES EVER TOLD

TRADE PAPERBACK EDITION

Over the years, when two or more heroes would get together to combat a common foe, it was a special event. Now DC represents 15 of the best of these stories from its long, rich history in **THE GREATEST TEAM-UP STORIES EVER TOLD** trade paperback edition.

This 288-page book features all the stories from last year's deluxe hardcover edition, including the historic "Flash of Two Worlds" (reintroducing the Golden Age Flash), "Crisis on Earth-One" and "Crisis on Earth-Two" (bringing back the Justice Society of America), as well as team-ups between Superman and Batman, Hawkman and Adam Strange, Green Lantern and Green Arrow, and many more. New cover by Neal Adams.

TOTAL RECALL...THE MOVIE ADAPTATION

Imagine being haunted by dreams of another life, on another planet, with a woman who's not your wife.

Then imagine the life you believed you were living here on Earth was the lie . . . and your "dreams" of life in the Martian colonies were the reality.

That's the problem Doug Quaid faces in the year 2075 in DC's authorized adaptation of the Carolco Pictures film "Total Recall." Because when Quaid begins to explore his dreams, he also discovers that he possesses information that could change the history of two worlds . . . or could get him killed by the people behind the bizarre realignment of his life.

Coinciding with the North American release date of the feature film, DC Comics publishes **THE TOTAL RECALL MOVIE ADAPTATION** by writer Elliot S. Maggin, with art by Tom Lyle. The comics adaptation is based on the Dan O'Bannon and Ron Shossett screenplay for the film starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and directed by "RoboCop"'s Paul Verhoeven.

Sometimes it pays to have TOTAL RECALL . . . but sometimes it can get you killed.

Paul Kupperberg, Writer
Peggy May, Editor

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TOTAL RECALL Copyright © 1990 Carolco Pictures Inc. All Rights Reserved. Unauthorized Duplication Is Strictly Prohibited.

Printed in Canada

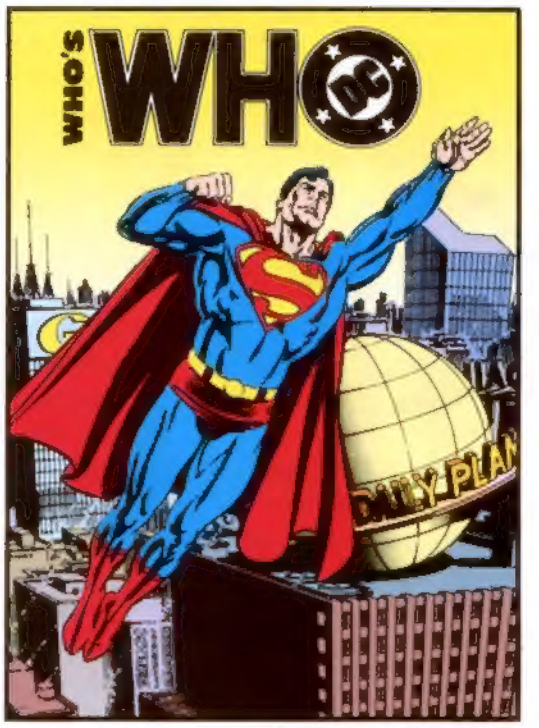
WHO'S WHO RETURNS

The ultimate reference source to the people and places of today's DC Universe is now available in an innovative new format with all-new entries.

The new **WHO'S WHO** is different from the previous volumes. Each issue will still contain the histories and abilities of DC's super-heroes and villains in newly created entries, highlighted by equally new art by many of DC's best artists. The difference comes in the presentation: WHO'S WHO is the first comics project ever to be published in a loose-leaf format. Each issue contains 48 graphic-novel sized, hole-punched pages printed on sturdy stock. Pages can be arranged in any order, a task simplified by a color-coded classification system that separates them into related groups, among them heroes, villains, the supernatural, supporting cast members, technology, and more.

The front of each of the 24 entries features a full-page pinup of the character, with the back of the page devoted to additional visuals as well as the depicted character's origin, background, powers and abilities. Another plus of this new, flexible format is that the packets will include a variety of characters from A to Z. Included in the first issue are Superman by Jerry Ordway, Kono by Kevin Maguire and Karl Kesel, Fire by Adam Hughes, Jericho by Tom Grummett and Al Vey, Orion (debuting his new costume) by Paris Cullins and Will Blyberg, and Darkseid by Mark Badger. WHO'S WHO #1 also includes a bonus fold-out poster of Atlantis by Esteban Maroto.

WHO'S WHO is a 16-issue maxiseries . . . featuring just about everything you could want to know about today's DC Universe.



HISTORY REVISITED IN THE BATMAN ARCHIVES

One of the most popular heroes of all time, Batman began his adventures in 1939 as the lead feature of the historic DETECTIVE COMICS #27. In continuous publication ever since, Batman tales are now related in several DC Comics books every month.

Now you can own those first two years of Batman stories from DETECTIVE COMICS, collected for the first time in **THE BATMAN ARCHIVES.** From his first case, through Batman's origin and the introduction of Robin, The Boy Wonder, the stories are all here. Most are reprinted for the first time in the 50 years since their original publication.

THE BATMAN ARCHIVES reprints all the Batman stories that appeared in DETECTIVE COMICS #27–#50, along with the covers from those classic issues. This 306-page, deluxe hardcover edition features the best of the original Batman stories, including confrontations with The Joker, Hugo Strange and Clayface in stories by Bob Kane, Bill Finger, Gardner Fox, and Jerry Robinson. Noted comics historian Rick Marschall provides the introduction.

THE BATMAN ARCHIVES . . . where the legend of the Darknight began.

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JUNE

ACTION COMICS #655
Lois Lane stands up Clark Kent to investigate the disappearance of arms from a military base, where she gets in way over her head. Written by Roger Stern, with art by Bob McLeod and Brett Breeding. Special eight-page Superman legend insert. Cover by Kerry Gammill and Breeding with full-process coloring by Jerry Ordway. $.75

ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™ #20
Trying to learn Luna's fate, Kyriani finds herself at the biggest party of the year in Waterdeep and runs afoul of a woman claiming to be the goddess of the moon. Written by Dan Mishkin, with art by Jan Duursema and Rick Magyar. Cover by Duursema. *(New Format)* $1.50

ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #469
Superman meets the "extra-terrestrial" creatures called Gemini and, in helping them unravel the secret of their origin, learns how they are connected to his old foes Psi-Phon and Dreadnaught. Written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens and inked by Art Thibert. Cover by Jurgens and Brett Breeding. $.75

ANIMAL MAN #26
Animal Man meets his maker . . . and it's not who you might expect it to be. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Chas Truog and Mark Farmer. Cover by Brian Bolland. *(New Format)* $1.50

ATLANTIS CHRONICLES #5
(of a 7-issue maxiseries)
The final battle between Orin and Shalako heats up as Poseidonis and Tritonis unite against a common threat. Written by Peter David, with art and cover by Esteban Maroto. *(Deluxe Format)* $2.95

BATMAN #452
Part 1 of the 3-part "Dark Knight, Dark City": The Riddler is behind a series of savage crimes and the resurrection of a supernatural curse on Gotham City. Written by Peter Milligan, with art by Kieron Dwyer and Dennis Janke. Cover by Mike Mignola and George Pratt. $1.00

THE BATMAN ARCHIVES #1
This second DC Comics archive publication collects in a single hardcover edition the first two years of Batman stories and covers from DETECTIVE COMICS #27 through #50. Included are the debut stories of Batman and Robin, featuring the Caped Crusader in confrontations with The Joker, Hugo Strange, and Clayface. Stories by Bob Kane, Bill Finger, and Jerry Robinson, with an introduction by Rick Marschall. 306 pages. $39.95

BUGS BUNNY™ #2
(of a 3-issue miniseries)
Bugs, Daffy Duck and friends head off on a global quest to keep Witch Hazel from collecting the Fudd statues and gaining untold power and wealth from their magic. Written by Joey Cavalieri, with art by Chuck Fiala and John Costanza. $1.00

THE BUTCHER #4
(of a 5-issue miniseries)
Green Arrow and John Butcher team up and head to the Aleutian Islands to confront a man who has a lot in common with The Butcher. Written by Mike Baron, with art by Shea Anton Pensa. Cover by Paris Cullins and Pensa. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

CAPTAIN ATOM #43
Cap fights a psychic battle with a dead man for possession of his own body while The Ghost brainwashes Babylon, Allard, and Goslin. Written by Greg Weisman, with art by Rafael Kayanan and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Pat Broderick. $1.00

CHECKMATE! #30
Knights Winston O'Donnell and Lionel Hawkins must survive an attack by Bishop . . . and then an invasion of Cypher International headquarters. The problem is, they're doing it all against orders from Checkmate. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art and cover by Steve Erwin and Mike Bair. *(New Format)* $1.50

THE DEMON #2
Jason Blood falls into the clutches of Crone. But when Jason sleeps, The Demon descends into the fiery pit of Hell where he finally meets its ruler . . . his mom! Written by Alan Grant, with art and cover by Val Semeiks and Denis Rodier. *(New Format)* $1.50

DETECTIVE COMICS #618
The new Robin's parents are abducted by terrorists. Written by Alan Grant, pencilled by Norm Breyfogle, and inked by Steve Mitchell. Cover by Breyfogle. $1.00

DETECTIVE COMICS #619
Tim Drake learns who kidnapped his parents . . . but Batman does nothing to help. Published bi-weekly in May. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Norm Breyfogle and Steve Mitchell. Cover by Breyfogle. $1.00

DOC SAVAGE #22
Doc Savage returns to his boyhood roots in 1908 as a mysterious case leads Doc back to one of his father's adventures . . . and hidden revelations about Doc's mother. Written by Mike W. Barr, with art by Rod Whigham and Steve Montano. Painted cover by Adam Kubert. *(Deluxe Format)* $2.00

DR. FATE #19
Doctor Stoner releases the inmates from Arkham Asylum, Linda finds that she can't summon forth Fate, and "Eugene" begins to realize that he's not who he thinks he is. Guest-starring the Phantom Stranger. Written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art and cover by Shawn McManus. *(New Format)* $1.50

THE DOOM PATROL #35
The Men from N.O.W.H.E.R.E. are on the scene to police and enforce reality . . . and their latest target is one of the strangest quirks imaginable. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Richard Case and John Nyberg. Painted cover by Simon Bisley. *(New Format)* $1.50

DRAGONLANCE™ #22
Part 1 of the 4-part "Taladas": The new continent of Taladas awaits exploration . . . as Riva crashes ashore in the New World for the first time. Written by Dan Mishkin, with art by Ron Randall and Randy Elliott. Cover by Randall. *(New Format)* $1.50

EL DIABLO #12
The Golden Age hero of the southwest, Vigilante, returns as Greg Sanders, the Prairie Troubadour, rides into Dos Rios. He is there to see how the new kid in the masked hero business is handling himself. Written by Gerard Jones, with art and cover by Mike Parobeck and John Nyberg. *(New Format)* $2.00

FIRESTORM #100
Brimstone, the plasma giant, has taken control of the sun to turn the Earth into an inferno. Only Firestorm can stop him. But Firestorm is trapped on Earth, unless someone is willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to set him free. Written by John Ostrander, with art and cover by Tom Mandrake. Plus, a special bonus for the

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final issue of FIRESTORM, as Firestorm creators Gerry Conway and Al Milgrom return with a new sequence looking back at some of the Nuclear Man's early adventures. Also, special art from previous pencillers Joe Brozowski and Tom Grindberg. 54 pages of story. $2.95

☐ **FLASH #41**
Flash finds himself in the middle of an "Elemental Conflict" as he teams up with Mr. Element to combat the evil of Dr. Alchemy. Written by William Messner-Loebs, with art and cover by Greg LaRocque and Jose Marzan, Jr. $1.00

FLASH #41

☐ **FORD FAIRLANE #4**
(of a 4-issue miniseries)
Surf punks . . . rappers . . . hard core survivors . . . rock 'n' roll detective Ford Fairlane has them all in his new life. But while his address may have changed, his luck really hasn't. Written by Gerard Jones, with art by Russell Braun, Jose Delbo, and Don Heck. Cover by Delbo and Heck. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **FORGOTTEN REALMS™ #13**
Part 3 of the 3-part "Triangles": Omen is on trial for the theft of the magical artifact that powers his ship, while the Realms Master is held captive. It looks as though it's all up to Jasmine. Written by Jeff Grubb, with art and cover by R.A. Morales and Dave Simons. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **THE GREATEST TEAM-UP STORIES EVER TOLD Trade Paperback**
These are the greatest super-hero team-up tales of all time, re-presented in a trade paperback edition featuring all 15 of the stories from the hardcover edition. Some of the best talents in comics history spin tales of The Justice League of America, The Justice Society of America, The Teen Titans, Superman and Batman, Flash and Atom, Superboy and Robin, and many more. New cover by Neal Adams. 288 pages. $14.95

☐ **GREEN ARROW #34**
Dinah and Ollie continue to work their way through the lingering scars of Ollie's abduction . . . but their hope for a new life is crushed. Written by Mike Grell, with art by Dan Jurgens and Frank McLaughlin. Cover by Jurgens. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.25

☐ **GREEN LANTERN #3**
Hal Jordan and Guy Gardner go at it, man to man—without their power rings—as John Stewart has a battle of his own against a Guardian gone mad. Written by Gerard Jones, with art and cover by Pat Broderick and Bruce Patterson. $1.00

☐ **HAWK & DOVE #15**
The mysteries surrounding the source of Hawk and Dove's costumes and powers are starting to unravel. Written by Barbara and Karl Kesel, with art and cover by Greg Guler and Scott Hanna. Cover by Guler and Karl Kesel. $1.00

☐ **HAWKWORLD #3**
Now, here's a concept that's new to the Thanagarian Hawkman and Hawkwoman . . . inalienable rights. Will they adapt to this fundamental concept of justice . . . or will this cornerstone of American democracy destroy their friendship? Written by Tim Truman and John Ostrander, with art and cover by Graham Nolan. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **HELLBLAZER #32**
Most dogs are content with a nice bowl of kibble . . . but Constantine is up against a malevolent spirit that leads a wild dog pack in the hunt for human flesh. Written by guest-writer Dick Foreman, with art by Steve Pugh. Painted cover by Kent Williams. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **THE HUNTRESS #17**
Part 1 of the 3-part "Batman and The Huntress": Whoever's been committing a series of unusual murders in New York really has problems now as The Huntress, Batman, and the Justice League get on his case. Written by Joey Cavalieri, with art and cover by Joe Staton and Bob Smith. *(Suggested for Mature Readers)* $1.00

☐ **JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #41**
Ever wonder what the limits of Maxwell Lord's powers are? Here's your chance to find out. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Mike McKone and Bruce Patterson. Cover by Adam Hughes $1.00

☐ **JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #16**
When the League's Moscow Embassy is destroyed by a team from another dimension, the Rocket Reds call for the JLE. Written by Keith Giffen and Gerard Jones, with art by Bart Sears and Pablo Marcos. Cover by Sears. $1.00

☐ **L.E.G.I.O.N. '90 #18**
The battle with the pirates concludes, but questions remain: who has survived and on which side? And who will join the L.E.G.I.O.N.? Written by Alan Grant, with art by Barry Kitson and Mark McKenna. Cover by Kevin Maguire and Al Gordon. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #9**
Part 4 of the 5-part "Man Without A Shadow": Batman returns to Gotham and meets with the city's surviving crime bosses to forge an uneasy alliance against the murderous Mr. Whisper. Written by Grant Morrison, with art and cover by Klaus Janson. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.50

☐ **THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #10**
The newly re-formed Legion begins their battle with Roxxas, the deadliest villain in the universe . . . but Roxxas has another foe to deal with first—Lightning Lord! Written by Keith Giffen, Tom and Mary Bierbaum, and Al Gordon, with art and cover by Giffen and Gordon. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

☐ **MISTER MIRACLE #18**
Mr. Miracle plans some spring cleaning . . . he wants to purge the evil from Apokolips. Written by Doug Moench, with art and cover by Joe Phillips and Bob Dvorak. $1.00

MISTER MIRACLE #18

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☐ **NEW GODS #18**
Yuga Khan, the powerful alien dictator, has set his sights on Apokolips . . . but is he a match for Darkseid? Written by Mark Evanier and Paris Cullins, with art by Cullins and Bill Anderson. Cover by Cullins and Will Blyberg. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **THE NEW TITANS #69**
Against their better judgment, the Titans decide to save Danny Chase from himself . . . and his fellow members of the Royal Flush Gang. Written by guest-writers Barbara and Karl Kesel, with art by Steve Erwin and Bob Smith. Cover by Tom Grummett and Al Vey. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

☐ **THE SANDMAN #19**
There's no business like show business as the Sandman gets a performance, Mr. Shakespeare gets stage fright, and Bottom gets an ass's head. Written by Neil Gaiman, with art by Charles Vess. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **SECRET ORIGINS #50**
It's a 96-page blockbuster final issue of SECRET ORIGINS, featuring an illustrated prose retelling of the first meeting between Batman and Dick Grayson, written by Dennis O'Neil and illustrated by George Pérez; "The Flash of Two Worlds," as retold by writer Grant Morrison and artists Mike Parobeck and Romeo Tanghal; Black Canary, by writer Alan Brennert and artists Joe Staton and Dick Giordano; Dolphin, by writer Richard Bruning, with art by Steve Bové and Kez Wilson; the origin of the western hero Johnny Thunder, written by Elliot S. Maggin, with art by Alan Weiss and Giordano; and the story of the Space Museum, by writer Gerard Jones and artists Carmine Infantino and George Pérez. Cover by Ty Templeton. $3.95

☐ **SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN #2**
The first leg of Shade's journey through the Mental States of America draws him into the heart of the nation's darkest mysteries as it asks the question, "Who killed JFK?". Written by Peter Milligan, with art by Chris Bachalo and Mark Pennington. Painted cover by Brendan McCarthy. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **THE SHADOW STRIKES! #11**
When a mystery from Margo Lane's past threatens the Shadow's lovely companion, Harry Vincent and the Dark Avenger himself race to save her. Written by Gerard Jones, with art and cover by Eduardo Barreto. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

☐ **STAR TREK® #11**
Part 2 of the 3-part "Trial of James T. Kirk": With Kirk's trial speeding toward a surprising conclusion, Kirk and Spock uncover the traitor in their midst. Written by Peter David, with art by Gordon Purcell and Arne Starr. Cover by Mark Bright. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **STAR TREK®: THE NEXT GENERATION #11**
The crew of the *Enterprise* piece together the mystery of the rogue ship . . . but not before they're discovered by the same. Written by Michael Jan Friedman, with art by Pablo Marcos. Cover by K.S. Wilson. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **STAR TREK®: THE NEXT GENERATION ANNUAL #1**
Q is back . . . and this time it's personal, as he warps history so that he has become the beloved son of Picard's parents. Can Picard correct the course of history before he loses his parents, his ship, and his life? Written by John de Lancie (the actor who portrays Q in the hit "Star Trek®: The Next Generation" television series), with art by Gordon Purcell and Pablo Marcos. Cover by Jerome Moore. *(New Format)* $2.95

☐ **STARMAN #25**
Will Starman be triumphant in his battle with Deadline? Written by Roger Stern, with art by Tom Lyle and Scott Hanna. Cover by Lyle. $1.00

☐ **SUICIDE SQUAD #43**
Part 4 of the 4-part "Phoenix Gambit": The Gambit reaches its conclusion and while Amanda Waller squares off against Deadshot, the situation in Vlatava comes to a boil as the Squad confronts the Red Shadows. Guest-starring Batman. Written by John Ostrander and Kim Yale, with art and cover by Geof Isherwood. $1.00

☐ **SUPERBOY #7**
A girl who was infatuated with the Boy of Steel is found murdered . . . and Superboy is arrested as the prime suspect. Written by Mark Waid, with art by Jim Mooney and Ty Templeton. Cover by Kevin Maguire and Templeton. $1.00

☐ **SUPERMAN #46**
The Terra-Men make their nefarious debut at a midwestern trade show where Infinity, Inc. members Jade and Obsidian join forces with the Man of Steel to prevent death and destruction. Written by Jerry Ordway, with pencils by Dan Jurgens. Cover by Ordway. $.75

☐ **SWAMP THING #98**
Swamp Thing's desperate search for Tefé leads him through an inferno littered with alien souls. Written by Doug Wheeler, with pencils by Tom Sutton and inks by Alfredo Alcala. Painted cover by John Totleben. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **TIME MASTERS #7**
(of an 8-issue maxiseries)
Rip Hunter tracks the Illuminati conspiracy through time, travelling back to the forgotten past and the final years of Arion, Lord of Atlantis. Can Rip change the past to prevent the future? Green Lantern guest-stars. Written by Bob Wayne and Lewis Shiner, with art by Art Thibert and Jose Marzan, Jr. Cover by Thibert. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **TOTAL RECALL MOVIE ADAPTATION**
It's the year 2075, and Doug Quaid's ordinary life on Earth is haunted by dreams of life and love with a woman not his wife. But as he begins to explore his dreams, Quaid learns that what he has perceived to be his life is a lie . . . and that whoever has crafted these lies is out to kill him. Based on the forthcoming Carolco Pictures production starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. The 64-page comic book adaptation is written by Elliot S. Maggin, with art by Tom Lyle. $2.95

☐ **WHO'S WHO #1**
(of a 16-issue maxiseries)
The all-new WHO'S WHO makes its debut, featuring 24 different entries in 48 graphic novel-sized pages, published in a unique loose-leaf format. Each of these color-coded pages can be arranged in any order or classification. The front of each entry features a full-page pinup illustration of the character or location by DC's best artists, with the back devoted to additional artist renderings and a text feature outlining the character's history and powers. This issue features a Superman cover by Jerry Ordway, as well as a fold-out poster of Atlantis by Esteban Maroto. $4.95

☐ **WONDER WOMAN #45**
Diana uncovers the origin of all earthly evil and suffering in a three-chapter story that presents a trio of conflicting views of the legend of Pandora's Box. Written by George Pérez and Mindy Newell, with art by Cynthia Martin, Jill Thompson, Colleen Doran, and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Pérez. $1.00

☐ **WORLD'S FINEST #1**
(of a 3-book miniseries)
The world's deadliest villains team up to take on the world's finest heroes. Lex Luthor and the Joker have forged an alliance to gain control of an orphanage that lies between Gotham City and Metropolis . . . and two orphans named Superman and Batman are forced into their own uneasy alliance to stop them. Written by Dave Gibbons, with art by Steve Rude and Karl Kesel. Painted cover by Rude. *(Prestige Format)* $3.95

people at WORK

JERRY ROBINSON

Jerry Robinson's career began with a chance meeting on a tennis court at a summer resort in 1939—and hasn't let up since.

"I was born in Trenton, New Jersey, too long ago for my taste," Jerry began his story, laughing. "Everybody says that anybody who plays tennis like I do can't be old enough to have worked on the original Batman, so I'd rather leave it at that.

"I guess I was always an artist, but I wasn't interested in art, as contradictory as that sounds. I never thought of being an artist. They tell me when I was in kindergarten I used to lie on the floor and draw and shortly after, I was doing portraits of my grandfather. But I never took art in school because in those days, you had to be a dullard to take art courses. They didn't count towards college. But I was the cartoonist for the high school paper, and one of the editors as well. So in that sense I was drawing all the time but never with any thought of being an artist.

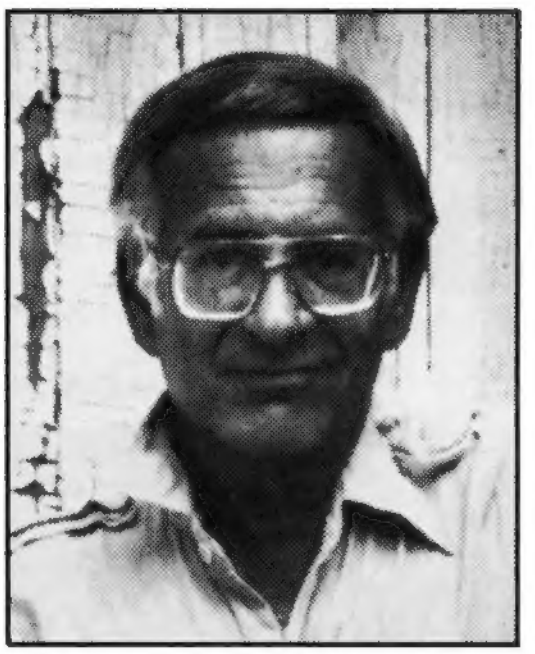
"I sold ice cream the summer before starting college at Syracuse University, selling it out of a cart on the back of a bicycle. Being the new boy on the block, they gave me the outermost franchise of the city, so by the time I bicycled out there, sold ice cream and rode back . . . well, I started out at 98 and by the end of the summer, I was down to 76 pounds, all for an average of $17.50 a week. So my mother persuaded me to take $25 of that hard-earned money and go away to a resort somewhere to fatten up because she didn't believe I could survive the first year of college at that weight.

"My first day there, I ran out to the tennis courts to find a game, wearing a painter's jacket. It was a fad in colleges in those days to decorate the jackets with paste-ons and whatnot, and I guess anybody who drew would draw on it, which I did. So I had these cartoons all over my jacket and someone tapped me on the shoulder and asked who had done the drawings. I confessed I did. He introduced himself, and it was Bob Kane.

"He asked me if I had heard of Batman, which, much to his chagrin, I hadn't. It had come out earlier that summer and just a couple of issues were out. We became friends that week and, one day, we walked down to the local village to a candy store to find a copy, and that was the first time I saw Batman.

"I knew nothing about comics, except for the newspaper comic strips which I used to read in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. But I didn't know anything about comic books when I saw Batman, and I guess I wasn't too impressed. I mean, I wasn't really taken by my first exposure." But the creator of Batman was impressed enough by Jerry's work to offer the student a job. "He said I could make much more than I could selling ice cream. I said, 'just for drawing pictures?'

"I quickly called up Columbia in New York, where I'd also applied, to see if my application was still good, and then I called Syracuse and



cancelled there, and I called home and told my mom I wasn't coming home, I was going straight to New York. And here I am.

"So I started at Columbia, working at night for Bob, along with writer Bill Finger. I started as his assistant and after about a year of burning the candle at both ends, I couldn't quite make it. I don't know how long I lasted at Columbia . . . maybe two years.

"I guess the big break came when I was hired by DC to work directly for them rather than working for Bob. Bill and I began getting offers from all over. Everybody wanted anybody who was connected with Batman because it was becoming such a huge success. There were just the three of us, and two of us were obtainable.

"My contributions to Batman were notably the Joker and naming Robin, which came from Robin Hood . . . not Robinson the Boy Wonder, as some publicity said at the time. When you're 17 or 18 and you want to appear older, you don't like to be called a boy wonder. I was also responsible for the initial concept drawing and naming the Joker. The rest was really a collaboration. Bob and all of us would throw ideas around and then it was fleshed out. Bill wrote that first story and rounded out the concept and deserves as much credit as Bob, who fleshed out the rough visual of the character, or myself.

"I went to work for DC, still doing Batman. That's when I began to pencil and ink stories myself. I also continued to ink some of Bob's stuff as well and then we hired George Roussos as my assistant on the inking.

"I was on Batman about six years all told, to 1945 or 1946. I also did other features under pseudonyms at the same time and, after Batman, I went on to Harvey and did a number of issues of *Green Hornet* as well as a lot of other features . . . a lot of magazines would begin and run for a few issues and fold. *Atoman* was another one I did. I also worked for Joe Simon and Jack Kirby before I went into advertising and book illustration. I illustrated thirty some-odd books for various publishers—biographies, histories, works of fiction, science books, the whole gamut of subjects.

"In the early '50s I began to teach at the Cartoonists and Illustrators School, which later became the School of Visual Arts. Around the same time, my old friend Mort Meskin and I formed a partnership, continuing to work on his "Vigilante" and "Johnny Quick," and then I did a lot of features for other publishers, such as "Black Terror" and the "Fighting Yank," as well as stories for Simon and Kirby. Those were good times. I think Mort's one of the masters of the comics of those days.

"In the late 1950s I signed a contract with the Herald Tribune Syndicate to do a science fiction strip called "Jet Scott," which I did for about two years, daily and Sunday. But after two years of the daily grind, I was worn out from doing the strip, along with the book illustrations and advertising, so I made a decision to drop it. And to show you how important timing is, a few months later Russia launched Sputnik, which caused a revival of interest in science of every kind, including science fiction. If I'd continued, I might still be doing 'Jet Scott' today."

During that time, Jerry went to work for Atlas Comics with writer/editor Stan Lee, where he worked on stories ranging from crime to war to westerns, and then to Western Publishing, where his work appeared in movie and television adaptations, including "Bat Masterson" and "Lassie." "I really got to hate Lassie," Jerry recalls. "I would invent ways of hiding Lassie. If he was running across a field, I'd have him in tall grass so you could only see his tail. Coming into a room, I'd just show his nose poking around the door."

In 1961, Jerry began a new aspect of his career when he signed with the Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate to do "Still Life," a political and social commentary strip that utilized inanimate objects to comment on the news. A year later, he developed the idea for "Classroom Fluffs and Flubs," a half-page strip that appeared exclusively in the Sunday *New York News* comics section, featuring real-life malapropisms contributed by readers. "I would get up to 1500 letters a week," Jerry says. "At one point, I was getting more mail than the President. And it was coming from all over the world. It was incredible. I did that for maybe 20 years.

"In 1977 I founded the Cartoonists and Writers Syndicate out of the idea that cartoonists could best promote their own features. We would do features that the big syndicates didn't find viable, that weren't mass-appeal strips. Of course, I started with my own strip, which, after 17 years, went from being called "Still Life" to "Life With Robinson."

Cartoonists and Writers Syndicate also syndicates "Views of the World" and "Wit of the World," featuring editorial cartoons by leading cartoonists from 40 countries. The cartoons are carried in 150 journals throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Jerry's accomplishments extend far beyond his comic book and syndicate contributions. He has received numerous awards, including three National Cartoonist Society Reuben Awards and three awards from foreign press and cartoon organizations. He is the author of 30 books, including a history of comics and a biography of cartoonist Percy Crosby. Most recently, he was co-author and co-art director of "Stereotypes," a Soviet film that looks at how America and the U.S.S.R. view one another. He has collaborated on a stage musical set to be produced in Buffalo, New York, next season. He has also served as curator for major museum and gallery exhibitions, his most recent efforts directed toward an exhibition of American cartooning that is now in Warsaw, Poland, and will tour the Eastern Bloc countries throughout 1990.

From the archives of the DC Comics Library, we bring you the cover from ACTION COMICS #544 (1984), in which Superman creators Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster were depicted.

Editor's note: It has been my pleasure over the last six years to meet and work with Jerry and Joe and the generations of people and creations they inspired. See ya,

Peggy